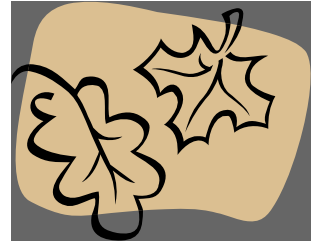


DIRECT BILL OPEN ENROLLMENT DELAYED TO NOVEMBER

September 30, 2005



For Medicare eligible participants in the Kansas State Health Care Benefits Program, this will be an exciting Open Enrollment. It can be described in just three words: *Medicare Part D*. Part D is the long anticipated Medicare prescription drug benefit and will have a very positive impact on Plan participants.


The Federal government agency, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), is responsible for the implementation of Part D. CMS just recently announced the vendors approved to offer Part D services. Because of this late notice, there are still some details that need to be ironed out in order to provide options, information and premium rates you need to make well-informed decisions about your medical and prescription drug coverage in 2006.

Therefore, Plan Year 2006 Open Enrollment has been delayed to November 1, 2005 through November 30, 2005. Even so, any changes you make will be effective January 1, 2006. You will receive your 2006 Open Enrollment information after October 18, 2005 that will include all the information you need to make your decisions. The Direct Bill Call Center will be operational starting October 24, 2005 to answer your questions and provide resource information.

Despite the late notice and information from CMS, we do have good news and information about other options for 2006. For instance:

- ❧ If you cover dependents and either you or your dependents are not Medicare eligible but the other participant is Medicare eligible, you will be able to have a “split premium” so that each of you get the best premium rate possible.
- ❧ A Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug (MA-PD) program will be available to residents in several counties in Kansas. The single only premium for medical, prescription drug and dental coverage will be less than \$70 per month.

Stay tuned. We will provide you with updated information as soon as possible. If you have access to the Internet, visit <http://da.state.ks.us/hcc/direct.htm> where we will post information as it becomes available. Thank you for your understanding and patience.



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HEALTH CARE COMMISSION
STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH
CONTINUATION PLAN

**OPEN ENROLLMENT
FOR DIRECT BILL PARTICIPANTS
DELAYED TO NOVEMBER**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
INSIDE!**